

Floyd Co. ATC Students Enjoy “What’s Up In Factories?” Tour of Toyota Made Possible by KET Grant

Floyd Co. ATC Machine Tool Technology Instructor Philip Ousley first found out about the *What’s Up In Factories?* initiative from his principal, Lenville Martin. Martin heard about it from Belfry ATC Principal Annette Harris-Ward. The good news is, 21 instructors from 14 KY Tech schools benefited from this worthwhile project made possible through a grant from KET, underwritten by JAMA (Japanese Automotive Manufacturing Association). KET was interested in this program from the standpoint of tying it into their Workplace Essential Skills program.

Launched in 1994 by the flagship public television station, Thirteen/WNET New York, *What’s Up In Factories?* was created to help educate both middle and high school students about manufacturing career pathways. At the same time, it was critical to involve and win the support of teachers and guidance counselors. According to the *What’s Up In Factories?* overview, the whole idea is to ‘build a bridge between the modern classroom and the modern workplace by providing upbeat, age-appropriate curriculum materials and professional training for educators.’

Prior to the industry tour for students, teachers attended a training workshop lead by qualified trainers. All participants were introduced to resources created by Thirteen/WNET and KET. The workshop experience included interactive sessions and



opportunities for participants to learn about problem solving, teamwork and efficiency by working in teams. Toyota Manufacturing in Georgetown hosted the training for approximately 100 teachers from across Kentucky.



Twenty-three Floyd Co. ATC students were treated to a special tour of Toyota Motor Manufacturing at the Georgetown, KY plant.

Once the training had been completed, teachers were encouraged to organize a factory tour for their students. The grant paid for a substitute teacher during the training experience, lunch, teaching materials and in many cases, travel expenses for students to visit a modern factory. It was obviously a win-win situation for everyone.

“I encourage and support my teachers in organizing these types of educational experiences for our students,” says Floyd Co. ATC Principal Lenville Martin. “For some, this is their only opportunity to see what exists outside the county and I’m glad we are in a position to provide what could be a life changing event for our students.”

“We don’t have many manufacturing jobs in Floyd Co.,” says Ousley. “So, this is a great opportunity for our kids to see manufacturing at a world class facility. To me, the most important aspect of this trip is for our students to see modern production and technology in the factory.”

“Our role is to provide technical education and skills training,” says Martin. “Through these types of experiences, we are able to reach the next level. I’m pleased Mr. Ousley went the extra mile by attending the training and making arrangements for our students to visit Toyota. And, KET should be commended for pursuing grant opportunities for such a valuable program.”

“The importance of this whole project is the connection that the kids can make with the real world workforce environment,” says Doug DeRossett, Floyd Co. School District technology resource teacher. “It’s also an opportunity to see what it’s like outside of school and most certainly a connection to technology.”

“I think Toyota is providing this type of program to promote the plant, while at the same time trying to recruit a well trained workforce.” says Ousley. “My students have certainly enjoyed the experience.”

Top photo left to right: Floyd Co. ATC Principal Lenville Martin, Machine Tool Technology Instructor Philip Ousley and Mikeal Fannin, a teacher’s aid.

Bottom photo left to right: Floyd Co. ATC students Adam Hall, Keneshia Mullins and Floyd Co. District Technology Resource Instructor Doug DeRossett.



“The majority of students are excited because they can see what a modern factory looks like,” says Harold Bayes, a Floyd Co. teacher’s aid.

“KET and Toyota have provided our students with a great experience,” says Ousley. “The trip was something they will all remember – but hopefully, some will be able to turn this into a career opportunity.”

In addition to visiting Toyota, Mr. Ousley wanted to provide his students with what he considered a bonus tour. He chose Visumatic Industrial Products, located in Lexington, KY. He is a former employee of the company. Mr. Ousley contacted his former boss Harold Cunningham, who is owner of the company. Mr. Cunningham was delighted to be able to provide Mr. Ousley’s students with a plant tour. Visumatic produces machines that are capable of assembling automated parts. The company has been in business for approximately 40 years.

Photo - from left to right: Matthew Reed and LeShawna Wesley view an engine in Toyota’s main lobby.

Says LeShawna, “I enjoyed the painting area. It was fascinating.”

“I liked the whole tour,” says Matthew. “I saw how efficiently people worked. I’m sure I will be able to do my job quickly and safely.”





Floyd Co.
ATC Student
Grant
Honeycutt
enjoys
looking at a
new Toyota
Solara
convertible
in the
company's
main lobby.

Other KY Tech schools participating in the *What's Up In Factories?* initiative include Paul Williamson, *Belfry ATC*; Dean Monarch and Thomas Thompson, *Breckinridge Co. ATC*; Charles Hollingsworth, *Carroll Co. ATC*; Gary Durham and Darrell Horn, *Corbin ATC*; Philip Ousley, *Floyd Co. ATC*; Barry Porter and Rick Atwell, *Green Co. ATC*; Robert Burns and Mark Hobbs, *Harrison Co. ATC*; Rickey Harlow, *Knott Co. ATC*; James Preston, *Lincoln Co. ATC*; Steve Bennett, *Lake Cumberland ATC*; Donald Cash, *Madison Co. ATC*; Emmitt McConnell and Juston Pate, *Mason Co. ATC*; Paul Caldwell, Chad Pickard and Dennis Harper, *Murray-Calloway Co. ATC*; and James Carroll, *Nelson Co. ATC*.